

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3058
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
GREEN SIGNAL FOR CULTIVATION OF BT COTTON
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council for Agriculture Research has given green signal for cultivation of BT Cotton in various States;
- (b) if so, the details of the trial made and their results received by the Council from various States; and
- (c) the names of the States to which ICAR has given its signal for cultivation of BT Cotton?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) had recommended four Bt Cotton hybrids viz. MECH 184 Bt, MECH 162 Bt, MECH 12 Bt and RCH 2 Bt to Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests for allowing cultivation in Central and South Zone States of India.

(b) Trials were conducted in different years at Khandwa (Madhya Pradesh), Surat and Junagarh (Gujarat), Nagpur and Nanded (Maharashtra), Guntur and Nandyal (Andhra Pradesh), Dharwad (Karnataka) and Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu). Results of trials indicated superiority of these materials in the following aspects:-

- i. Reduction in infestation by bollworms, and
- ii. Reduction of up to 2-6 in number of pesticide sprays. In general, seed cotton yields of these Bt hybrids were found better than their non-Bt versions.

(c) After consideration of trial results, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India approved these Bt Cotton hybrids for commercial release.